

the RARS

Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



June, 2001
Number 368

AC4ZO,
WA4BPJ
work on the
220 Repeater



June 23-29 is
Amateur Radio
Week in NC



Dues
Are Due!

*Next RARS Meeting:
Tuesday, June 5th
- Field Day -*

The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

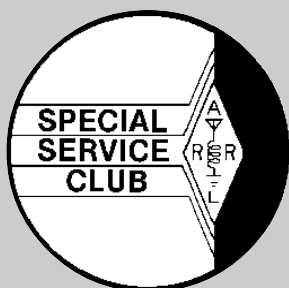
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Info

Repeaters:

145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

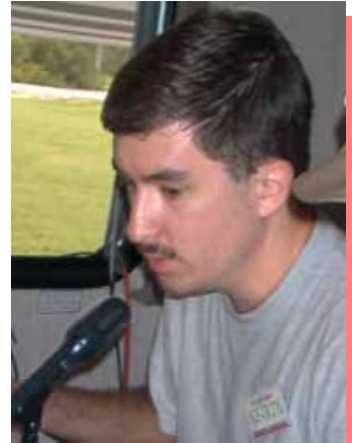
Web Site:

<http://www.rars.org>

President's Corner

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX

Wow! June is already here. Half of the year has gone by. We've had a good year so far, and I think the rest of the year is shaping up to be just as good. The public service season is in full swing, and hamfests abound. New repeaters are just around the corner as well. I'll be glad to have 444.525 back on the air. It's one of the few repeaters in the area that I can hit with a low-power HT from home. I want to thank Bernard W4BRB, Gary KN4AQ, Jeff AC4ZO, Mike WA4BPJ, and Danny K4ITL for all the hard work being put into this project.



Ham radio is also getting some attention at the state government level. Thanks to the efforts of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Society, Governor Easley has declared that the week of Field Day will be **Amateur Radio Week** in the state. The mayor of Greensboro has made it Amateur Radio week in the city as well. I think we, as RARS members, should lobby the Raleigh mayor to make the same proclamation. Who knows? Maybe this will catch on and the Federal Government will give us some recognition.

Speaking of Field Day... Those of you who are new to the hobby, or who haven't gotten out to a Field Day yet, I encourage you to participate. It's a LOT of fun. If you have questions about Field Day or would like to sign up for operating, be sure to get with one of the band captains. A list can be found on the RARS website. Just follow the Field Day links. Not sure what Field Day is about? Be sure to come to the June club meeting. Most likely the program will be strictly devoted to Field Day.

Congratulations to the folks who worked the **Tour de Cure** bike race recently. From all accounts, everyone had a great time while providing valuable communications for the event. I want to personally thank everyone who volunteered for this event. Way to go!

You will also notice a write-up in this Exciter about the passing of Dale Marquis WA4EZU, the **Cap 'n Badge Man**. I know you all join me in offering condolences to his family and friends. He was a regular fixture in a lot of hamfests, and he will be missed.

In case you missed it, last month's Exciter had a survey in it. It asks how you as a club member feel about RARS. So far, I have received a grand total of one in the mail. If you still have your Exciter from May, please take time to fill out the survey and mail it to me. Your input is very valuable to me as President. This is OUR club, and I want to know how we can make it even better!

73 and see you at Field Day!

Tune In The RARS NEWS HOUR

• *Newsline*
• *ARRL Audio News*
• *R.A.I.N Report*

*Sunday Nights following the
RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64*

you are so **Grounded!**

We've got grounding on our mind at RARS this month.

At the May club meeting, Clyde Carl WB2EYC took us through the technicalities of the National Electrical Code.

Before that, the night of the April RARS Dinner, a storm zapped the Bayleaf tower, taking the 224.64 repeater off the air.

Mike WA4BPJ and

Jeff AC4ZO responded the next weekend, and found that the repeater itself seemed OK, as did the power supply. But the RC-1000 controller was toast. Almost every-

thing inside made of silicon was zapped. And the surge protector power strip that everything was plugged into was literally toast, with a

ON THE COVER: Jeff AC4ZO and Mike WA4BPJ poke and prod at the 220 repeater controller in an attempt to make it work using parts salvaged from the carcass of another controller that also met it's fate due to lightning. Alas, they were thwarted - the damage was too extensive.

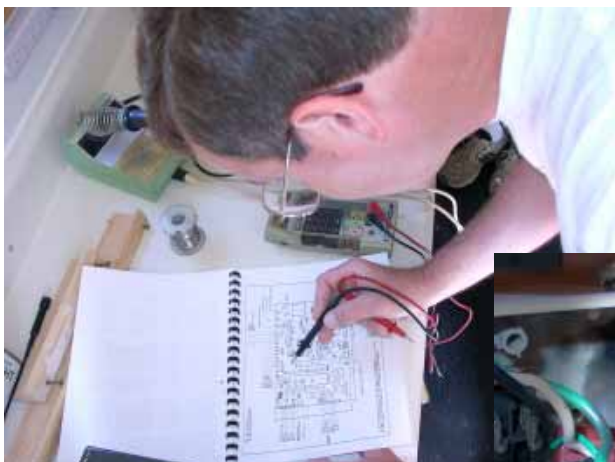
few actually blown up components and a bit of printed circuit strip that was vaporized.

This led Mike to analyze the site grounding, come up with a theory on

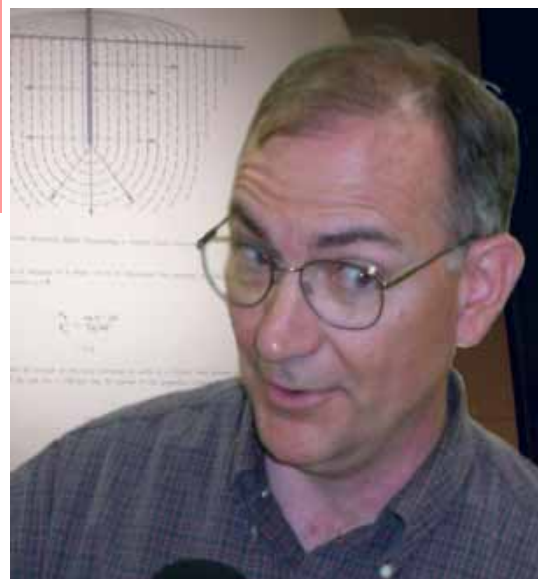
why we suffered so much damage, and a plan to fix it. We don't have room in the **Exciter** for all Mike's analysis, but ask him to show you the

diagrams sometime. It's fascinating.

Mike's rebuilding the controller, and we will be reworking the site ground with help from our landlord, Alltel. The 220 repeater will be off the air until that work is completed.



WA4BPJ traces the controller schematic, identifying blown semiconductors. And right - more visible damage inside the power strip. The vaporized trace was to the right of the fuse.



*WB2EYC wonders how well **your** shack is grounded. There's lots more information on the web. Look at: www.polyphaser.com/ppc_technical.asp*

don't forget

FIELD DAY

June 23/24

*Details on the
RARS Web Site:
www.rars.org*



*The Wake County
ARES Net meets
Thursday at 9 PM
on the 146.88
Repeater*

A Time of Renewal

Yep, we say in a folksy way that probably doesn't take any of the sting of the idea that we're reaching into your wallet... it's membership renewal time for most of you. RARS fiscal year starts July 1st (Happy New Year!), so it's time to cough up.

It's also the time we catch up on all that information you have given up on keeping private. Things like your address, phone number, callsign, license class and stuff. Our Treasurer, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, has prepared a personal renewal form that our crack **Exciter** stuffing crew probably left out of your copy. If by some quirk of fate yours actually made it into the newsletter, you'll see what we think we know about you, and how successfully

you've managed to fool our sleuth's best efforts to track you down. Should you see any inadvertently accurate information, please obscure it and give us something useless, and return it with your renewal (or a hearty laugh if you're a lifer, newsletter exchange or other variety of freeloader).

Should you decide to put this off, let it slide, skate, coast, delay and hope we go away, we'll hound you with another **Exciter** in July and August, but by September you'll be out in the cold. If we see you on the street, we'll pretend we don't know you. If Riley calls for a personal reference, we'll make vague allegations of on-air and personal impropriety. And of course you won't have a clue about what's going on in Ham Radio. But once you finally get around to sending in your meager contribution, all will be forgiven and you'll be welcomed like a long lost (wealthy) uncle.

Don't let this happen to you. Renew today!

N4TAB, KG4HDT Appointed Full Fledged ECs

Tom Brown N4TAB and John Guerriero KG4HDT can drop the "acting" from their EC titles. They've been appointed full ECs by ARRL NC Section Emergency Coordinator David Fleming KE4JHJ.

Tom and John were two of the Assistant ECs who stepped in to keep Wake County ARES going when Ron Ford KG4FJA stepped down as EC earlier this year. They were appointed acting ECs last month, and in May decided to accept the full EC appointment.

Two ECs in one county? But there was a little problem. They wanted to share the responsibility of EC, and the ARES

structure didn't readily accommodate that. David solved the problem by appointing Tom as Wake County ARES EC, and John as EC for NC Emergency Management, in charge of Amateur Radio operations at the State EOC. John and Tom say that the official titles won't really lead to divided responsibility. They'll work closely together to keep Wake ARES and the State EOC working together as an integrated unit.



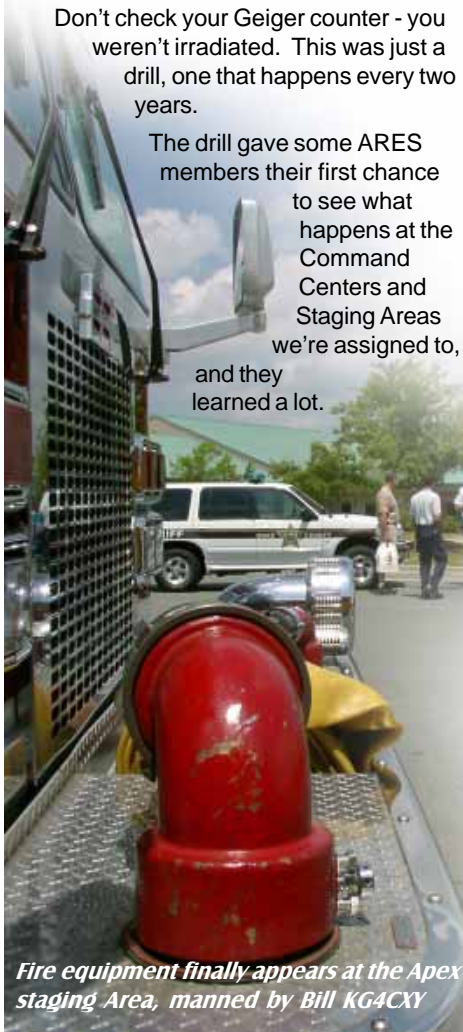
New EC's: KG4HDT (right) "lures" N4TAB into a fishing vacation at the May Wake County ARES meeting.

Wake ARES Practices at Harris Nuke Drill

The Shearon-Harris Nuclear Power Plant blew its top again on April 24, for the benefit of Wake Emergency Management and associated Fire, Police and EMS departments, including Wake County ARES.

Don't check your Geiger counter - you weren't irradiated. This was just a drill, one that happens every two years.

The drill gave some ARES members their first chance to see what happens at the Command Centers and Staging Areas we're assigned to, and they learned a lot.



Fire equipment finally appears at the Apex staging Area, manned by Bill KG4CXY

Lesson 1: Getting In. The Hams were welcomed with open arms at some of the venues, but denied participation at one.

Assistant EC Bill Ward KD4ISF was allowed to set up a station, but not sit in with the rest of the Command Post crew at one fire station. At another post, Mike Costible WD4MGP wasn't sure what his proper place was. He told the receptionist at a town hall that he was the Ham operator assigned to the post, and headed back out to the parking lot. When Gary KN4AQ came by, he got Mike introduced to the officers inside, where he was welcome. But Mike didn't have a handheld radio, so still needed a trek to the parking lot to communicate. And Bill Cole KG4CXY found a staging area with no outside activity. Some communication with the Wake EOC assured him that he was in the right place, and he'd find the crew inside, which he did.

Eventually, a few fire trucks arrived to participate.

Lesson 2: Getting Out.

Most of the buildings housing the Command Posts presented an RF challenge. HTs reached the Wake ARES 145.39 repeater from outside the buildings, but not from inside. Vince Heffron KF4ZMV and Bob Scott KG4IZA could receive from inside on their HTs, but had to go outside to transmit. Alerted to



the possibility of an antenna installed for Amateur Radio use, they indeed did find a coax cable marked "Amateur Radio". It turned out to be a "work in progress" by Ron Casey K4JDR, who is installing ham antennas on all Cary fire stations, and it wasn't ready for use. KG4CXY couldn't reach the repeater from inside his Apex Staging Area on Davis Drive, either.

The solution here would be crossband repeat, or a long piece of coax to an antenna outside or near a window (or a permanently mounted antenna on the building).

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KF4ZMV (in the corner) and KG4IZA (wearing hat) at Command Post



East NC Clubs Unite for ADA's Tour de Cure

More than 40 hams from at least 15 Amateur Radio clubs combined to provide communications for the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure, a 180 mile bike tour that ran from Zebulon to Manteo over two days, May 5th and 6th.

121 bikes began the tour at Five County Stadium, home of the Carolina Mudcats baseball team. By that point, hams were already in operation. Jeff Wittich AC4ZO was on the road first, pounding in signs and marking the route. Jeff's goal was to keep ahead of the bikes, and he did that with only a few minutes to spare, reaching the Saturday overnight stop near Williamston only a few miles ahead of the first bikes.

Ham operators provided all the SAG Wagons for this event, and they turned out in force, with more than 15 on Saturday and 20 on Sunday for some parts of the route. SAG Wagons (**Support And Gear**) are hard set for communications unless a ham is driving. When a ham just rides along, they have to take equipment from their own

Gary Pearce KN4AQ

vehicle and set it up in another vehicle, they take up a seat that could be used for a passenger, and they have to leave their own vehicle back at the starting line. Over the past few years, I've noticed more and more hams providing their own SAG vehicle, so this year I promised that we'd provide all the SAGS, and we came through!

And as always, we covered the rest stops and shadowed the officials. Jeb Brookshire, the Tour Coordinator, rode with me. RARS VP Bob Breyer K1RCB ferried Jeb's assistant Debra around the course, spending a lot of time in hospitals on Saturday (more on that in a minute). Bob was talking about the marvels of one-way crossband repeat for days afterward, having discovered the HT-boosting properties of his dual-band mobile. Mark Freeze WD4KSE went us all one better - he sets up two dual-band radios and creates what is essentially a full duplex UHF repeater with



ADA's Jeb Brookshire supervises the start of the Tour de Cure at Five County Stadium

VHF remote in his truck. Mark shadowed Tina, the chief medic.

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Tour de Cure ***continued from previous page***

Crossband repeating was important for the shadows because we operated much of Saturday in fringe territory of the repeaters. Unlike the MS-150 routes, which have been graced with full coverage by wide-area repeaters, the route from Zebulon to Williamston has no single repeater coverage. But the area is served by repeaters that can be linked together in Farmville, Rocky Mount and Williamston. And while the Farmville repeater *should* have covered the starting line OK (and the Williamston repeater *should not*), things worked out the opposite. A flaky morning band opening brought Williamston in pretty well, while Farmville was hard to reach. Handhelds with rubber ducks, though, were out of the question. So it was mobiles and crossband repeat to the rescue.

Net Control for Saturday came from the Roanoke Amateur Radio Society - Eric Christensen KF4OTN (Eric also did a tremendous job recruiting hams from the



Saturday's Net Control was "that young whippersnapper" Eric KF4OTN. The description was provided by Richard Marlin K4HAT

Williamston and Plymouth areas, while clubs in Rocky Mount, the Albemarle area and the Outer Banks also pitched in operators).

We also tested a second radio system - APRS. Doug Ferris K4ROK and Al Sadowski AH6LS got an APRS digipeater up at 1200' on the Columbia UNC TV tower (home of the 146.835 Columbia repeater). That filled in a black hole of APRS coverage in the northeast part of the state, making it worthwhile to try some APRS trackers. Karl Ulrich K4LNX put a tracker in Jeff AC4ZO's

truck, and another in his own car. Jeff was going to double back and pick up signs following the last rider, and Karl was going to follow the first rider. The data would display on a laptop computer in my car for Jeb to follow the action.

It was an experiment, and it didn't work very



Karl K4LNX set up the tracking end of the APRS system

well on Saturday. There was a black hole in coverage between Rocky Mount and Williamston, where there are no digipeaters, and when Jeff, Karl or I were in that territory, the screen was not updated and the icon just sat still. It took Jeff longer to get back to

the starting line and work his way toward the last bike than we had anticipated, but fortunately Larry Holt KG4FIQ, who had been on duty at Rest Stop 1, had a tracker in his car. He volunteered to fall in line, driving (slowly) behind the last bike.

Both voice and APRS worked better on Sunday, when we were in continuous coverage of the mighty Columbia repeater at 1200'. Now, we wished we had more trackers, and more displays. SAG Coordinator Dick Orander KD4ISC was often heard asking for position reports on the lead and trail bikes, while Jeb and I could just glance down at the screen and see exactly where they were. Net Control could also have used an APRS display. And if we had trackers on all the SAGS, the Supply Truck and medics, the voice

traffic would have been cut in half. Coming up with this level of APRS coverage will be a challenge to the digital community in ham radio - can you do it?

Saturday was beautiful - clear skies, light winds and temperatures that reached the low 80's. The lead bikes were flying well above 20 MPH (and nipping at

Supporting Clubs

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club

Columbia Emergency Repeater Assn.

Tar River Amateur Radio Club

Outer Banks Repeater Assn.

Roanoke Amateur Radio Society

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Piedmont Coastal Repeater Assn.

K4JDR Repeater and Link System

Fessenden Amateur Radio Club

Wake County ARES

Nash County ARES

Edgecombe County ARES

East Carolina University ARC

Repeaters and Digital

146.88 Raleigh	145.41 Williamston
145.27 Farmville	146.835 Columbia
147.21 Rocky Mount	APRS on 144.39

AC4ZO's heels as he pounded in arrows and signs). But when they approached a railroad crossing east of the small town of Robersonville, their speed caught up with them. They didn't notice the acute angle of the tracks crossing the road, or the deep gap between the track and pavement. Several bikes went down when their narrow tires were caught in the groove. One rider hit hard enough to break his arm. Fortunately, Karl K4LNX was right behind them, and declared an emergency on the net.



SAG Coordinator Dick KD4ISC (left) helps Jeff AC4ZO sort the signs that Jeff set, then collected, on Saturday. Jeff got up extra early Sunday to make sure the bikes didn't catch him.



This is the Railroad crossing that threw several riders. Greg KG4AWG's SAG is in the driveway, warning cyclists to walk their bikes over the tracks.

Bill followed the ambulance to the hospital in Williamston. Jeb and I arrived and inspected the scene, then headed to the hospital, and Bob K1RCB with Debra followed. Bob and Debra stayed with the injured rider, and followed him to a second hospital in Washington to see an orthopaedic doctor.

That was all the excitement for Saturday. By 4:30 or so, all the bikes were in at the finish line, and the hams headed to their hotel rooms (except Bill KG4CXY and Max Bloodworth KO4TV, who elected to camp). About 25 of the hams got together at the Williamston Golden Corral for the traditional Saturday night

ham dinner.

During the night, a cold front passed through. There was little rain, but the temperature dropped 15 degrees, and the riders were faced with a steady headwind all day Sunday. As we worked our way east, Jeb and I began to hear reports of concern about the wind from our Net Control, Fil Nutter W8FIL on Roanoke Island, the end



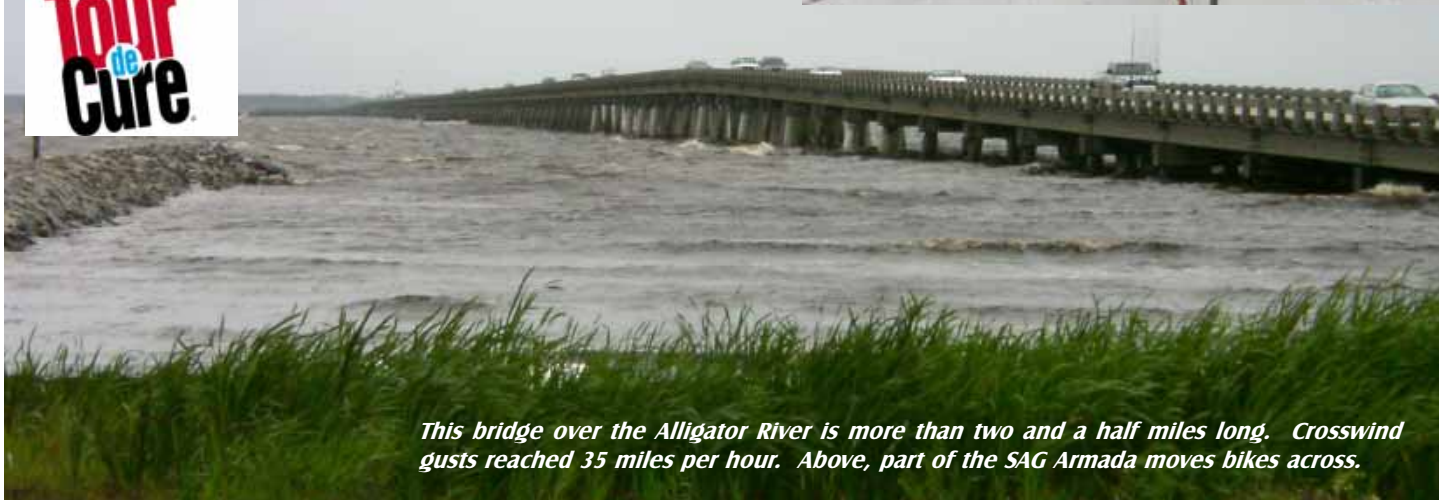
Bruce KC4UQN was one of the early leaders in the SAG-It-Yourself movement

of the course. There were two long bridges to cross, each almost three miles long crossing the Alligator River and Croatan Sound. A 30 mph crosswind was whipping up whitecaps and buffeting cars crossing the bridges. Jeb, Dick and I decided to begin marshalling SAGS to carry all the bikes across the bridges. Fortunately, even more hams had volunteered from the

continued on next page

Once Karl's position was identified, Eric KF4OTN called the county 911 center, and an ambulance was dispatched.

Mark WD4KSE and Tina were on the way, and other SAGS arrived quickly. Bill Cole KG4CXY reported that more bikes were hitting the tracks and falling, even as the ambulance attendants were tending to the rider who broke his arm. Dick KD4ISC had Greg Johnson KG4AWG position himself to warn bikes to slow down and walk across the tracks, using his green strobe lights and PA system. One rider, who tried to ride across the tracks very slowly, got tossed to the ground anyway.



This bridge over the Alligator River is more than two and a half miles long. Crosswind gusts reached 35 miles per hour. Above, part of the SAG Armada moves bikes across.



Jeb loads a bike into Max KO4TV's SAG

Tour de Cure continued from previous page

Roanoke and Abalmarle clubs. We had a SAG Armada to keep the course covered and plenty to cover both bridges. By the time the bikes made it to the first bridge, the line was very long and thin, and there was no trouble keeping up with the arriving bikes. We ferried all 119 bikes across both bridges, with the exception of one lone rider (the last rider) who insisted on riding across.

Once on Roanoke Island, the trees provided

a windbreak, and the bikers rode the last few miles into Festival Park in Manteo. They would ride back to the starting line in comfortable busses. The hams drifted toward home as their assignments ended and rest stops closed. And as I prepared to leave, Jeb said (for the 20th time at least) how much he appreciated our assistance, and how there was no way the ADA could handle the tour without ham radio.

It was another job well done. ■



***more pictures at
www.rars.org***



Above, Dare County EC Harry K4UOR is a busy guy when hurricanes hit. At Rest Stop 9, he relaxed. Left, Fil W8FIL handled Net Control on Sunday, after doing the same for a Chesapeake to Manteo tour on Saturday. He didn't relax. Fil and Harry are in the Outer Banks Repeater Association. And far left, Randy W4HAT and Richard K4HAT honor their Hatteras Island home with their callsigns. The Fessenden ARC took care of Rest Stop 8.

opinion **The Problem** *promise* of Packet

Gary Pearce KN4AQ

Ever since packet became a popular Amateur Radio mode of communication, it has held great promise for emergency and public service operation. And APRS would appear to be a natural for the Tour de Cure, MS-150, triathlons and the Raleigh Marathon. **But so far, at least in this area, packet is still more promise than performance. Why?**

I see three reasons. First, there aren't enough hams using packet (even APRS) to reach the "critical mass" needed to sustain a big emergency or public service project. And what users we have are not jumping en-

relatively complex, and it's reliability is at best unproven. Heck - it falls apart when you look at it crosswise.

Finally, the network of packet digipeaters is



APRS display from KN4AQ's laptop on the Tour de Cure. Shows KG4FIQ at Rest Stop 3, and K4LNK following the lead bike, about to turn off 64

limited, somewhat haphazard, and of unknown reliability. Who put up the sites? Will they survive power failures? Do we know what routes our data can follow? Will they be there tomorrow? We have these answers for most of the voice repeaters. We need them for digital. We can't rely on sending messages off into a grey cloud, hoping they come out the other end.

Packet and other digital modes have great promise. APRS tracking has no equivalent. And the



Doug K4ROK, Pitt County EC, directed bike traffic on US 301. He also installed the APRS digi on the UNC tower at Columbia

masse into the projects. In the examples to date, a few dedicated enthusiasts have put in exceptional effort to make the limited tests work. We are just now getting a mass movement started in **voice** operations, with much training left to do so hams can reliably switch from repeater A to repeater B without getting lost. Packet participation is far behind. Second, the equipment at the user's end is

Al AH6LS took a vacation day to prepare the APRS digi for use at Columbia. The Tour de Cure became an important demonstration project for APRS, and it showed great promise.



message handling capability is great for passing accurate messages, lists of names, and stuff you'd rather keep moderately private. Other parts of the country claim to have implemented digital already, but they haven't shared how they've solved the problems.

We need more hams having greater expertise with digital equipment that isn't held together with bailing wire. And we may need some unconventional solutions, too. Instead of attempting to duplicate voice capability with digital, maybe we should create positions and paths for information that are uniquely crafted for digital. For the foreseeable future, the number of digital operators will be much more limited than the number of voice operators. All those who proclaim digital's superiority need to come forward and support that claim.



The APRS digipeater and the 146.835 KB4TOR repeater sit at the 1200' level of this UNC-TV tower just west of Columbia, NC

CCFA
Run for
Research
June 2nd

CCFA
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
of America, Inc.



The last event before the summer heat begins... this run begins at Glaxo in RTP. It's the only one that lets you sleep in, as it starts at 5 pm. Contact Joe WA2UZO: wa2uzo@arri.net

Details on all events on the web at:
www.rars.org/public-service

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Cap & Badge Man - WA4EZU - SK

Just as we were going to press, we learned that Dale Marquis WA4EZU, well known to hams across the southeast as the Cap & Badge Man, died Monday night (May 14), at the Spartanburg, SC hospital. His death followed a three week illness.

He is survived by wife Elizabeth, son Ben Marquis, daughters Lynn Manning, Kathy

Hines, Mary Chambers, brother Paul Marquis, along with ten grandkids and one Great grandchild.

Condolences by USPS to:
Elizabeth Marquis & Family
PO Box 652
Fairforest, S.C. 29336

ARES

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Lesson 3: Getting The Message. Most drills have not utilized Amateur Radio. We're there, but we're not written into the plan. For example, nothing tells the Command Center chief that all phones and radios are dead (except the ham) - try to get a message to the EOC. If they did, would we be ready?

On his way out of the Fuquay Command Post, KN4AQ asked the Captain if he would draft a brief message to send through his Ham operator. We don't want to embarrass Mike WD4MGP, but we don't think he'll mind others learning from his experience - he certainly did. A few minutes after Gary left the Command Post, Mike called net control with a message. It was addressed to no one, signed by no one, and contained a few words that seemed to be wrong, or maybe misspelled on the note Mike was handed. On the air, there was a brief discussion about changing the message to something that made more sense to the operators, but the stern warning to all traffic handlers not to change messages discouraged that. After a few trips between the meeting room inside the Command Post and his car, Mike got the signature and clarification on the message. Turns out it had been written correctly, using police language.

Good thing this was a drill - it took forever to get the message delivered. Had Mike been experienced in this work, he would have gotten all the right info up front, and zipped the message to the proper destination. Next time, he sure will. But how many other ARES operators would have the same trouble? How about **you**?

This drill occurred on a weekday. ARES had a few days notice, and hams staffed the County and State EOCs, four field sites, and had a net control and HF liaison station. Drills conducted by government employees

will always be during working hours - the budgets don't have any overtime allocated for drills. ARES will plan some weekend drills of its own to give more hams a chance to participate.

New Wake ARES EC Tom Brown N4TAB and assistant EC Mark Gibson N4MQU operated the new radios at the County EOC. They reported a very crowded, hectic room, but things worked well. The exercise was monitored by FEMA auditors, and Ham Radio's participation was noted and appreciated.



N4TAB, N4MQU at busy Wake EOC



New Digipeater Brings SEDAN to Triangle

Ronnie Reams WA4MJF

A joint project of CSC and TEARA, a SEDAN Node is now operational on 145.77 mc in Zebulon, NC. The call sign is K4RTP-7. Try it out and leave any comments in my personal mailbox WA4MJF-1 or EMAIL me.

Hope this helps in any emergency communications needs that arise.

Of course, don't forget the regular packet store and forward system on 147.54 MHz.

[SEDAN is a what's called a "keyboard-to-keyboard" packet network. That means that it's designed to pass text between operators in real-time, kind of like RTTY. Some messaging is possible, but live is the primary purpose. The network has grown up around the southeast for the past decade, but there has never been good access in the Triangle. So break away from 144.39 for a minute and give it a try - Ed.]

**Join Us At The
RARS Dinner**

**Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at
Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.**

Minutes

Club Meeting, May 1st, 2001

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on May 1, 2001 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33p by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX who welcomed 70 members and 2 guests.

Greg, KE4PAX gave the treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 328. Greg also commented that renewal time is approaching, and to watch the June Exciter for a renewal form.

Bill, WB2QFZ showed a book about communication written in the early part of the 20th century. After saying a few words about it, he donated it to the Club library.

Gary, KN4AQ announced a large public service event scheduled for this weekend. It is a 175 mile bicycle ride from Zebulon to Manton over two days. Volunteers are still needed, and Gary explained what was required.

Mike, WA4BPJ was next on the stage with an important message about Field Day. He distributed a handout showing our current status, and then described the operation he envisions. He finished by answering questions from the membership.

President Nicholson then made an announcement concerning the need for a presenter for a group of Boy Scouts. Members who could help were asked to call Lynn, KO4QH, our Education Director.

John, KG4HDT explained the new ARES activities that have been going on, and reminded all about the weekly ARES nets on Thursday evenings.

At this time, Cliff, KF4RDP and the RARS Hamfest committee held the drawing for the worker incentive prize. The prize was a cash prize of \$100 and was won by..... AB4OZ.

Keeping with the spirit of giving, Tim, KF4RTX awarded an appreciation gift to Denyse, KG4CXR. It was a personalized SKYWARN mug for those late nights at the National Weather Service office.

With that completing the business and announcements, at 8:04p, Tim introduced the guest speaker for the evening: Clyde Carl, WB2EYC, with a program about grounding.

Door prizes were awarded to: KD4ZVW, KF4RDP, and KA8HXX.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53p.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary



Cliff KF4RDP presents the Hamfest Worker prize to Alan AB4OZ. Alan was entered for working as a VE

In the Vice President's report, K1RCB said that topic for the May meeting will be grounding.

Committee Reports:

KN4AQ reported on the FM committee. He has dropped off our controllers with K4ITL, and our new repeaters have been ordered. We are currently awaiting receipt of 3 new repeaters.

KN4AQ reported for the Education Department, and said that the class has graduated, with 6 new hams.

KN4AQ reported on the Exciter. He circulated a preliminary May edition, and said that there will be a "lick & stick" party at the RARS dinner on the 4th Tuesday. Also, he has identified a possible replacement for Exciter Editor, and will work directly with Karl, K4LNX.

KG4CXY gave the Net Manager's report. He said that net participation is slightly up, and all is going well.

KG4CXY then said a few words about a few Public Service events coming up. He said that he is receiving requests for service at events in other parts of the state. Activity has been high as we come into our event season.

K4HM reported on the Hamfest. He said that both ticket and table sales were down from last year, marking the sixth year in a row of declining ticket sales. A post mortem meeting is scheduled for April 23, 7:00p at K4HF.

Old Business:

The issue of the storage unit was once again brought up. AC4ZO reported that he has procured a unit, and we can move in any time. It was agreed that we will send a delegation to NA4G to get the RARS equipment and stage it at K1RCB where shelves will be built for the storage room. All the equipment along with the shelves will then be moved to the storage room.

K1RCB reported that the RARS table at the hamfest made \$346.50. K4HM reported that several power cords that were used at the Social are missing.

New Business:

AC4ZO presented to the Board a "White Sheet" that could be used by the Club as a statement of our purpose. It was decided that the document will be used to address the issue at hand, but further discussion will be tabled until July.

KE4PAX began the budget talks. He distributed a preliminary worksheet, and a discussion began. Each line item was considered. Some were removed, others were adjusted, and still new items were added. The Treasurer took the comments and will prepare a new worksheet for the May meeting.

With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 10:08p.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

Board Meeting, April 17th, 2001

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on April 17. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX at 7:39p.

Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, KG4CXY, K4HF, K4HM, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, K1RCB, KF4RTX, N4YRD, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 14.

On motion by K4HM, seconded by KG4CXY, the minutes of the March meeting were approved. KE4PAX gave the Treasurer's report. He said that membership stands at 325.

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Snapshots



Beach Bum

K4RLC entertains the seagulls with DX, operating a mode dubbed "HF Pack" (not Packet) with his Yaesu micro-HF 817 and the world's longest rubber duck.

Bob is Wake ARES's newest Assistant EC.

Antenna Crew

It's spring, and time for antennas to bloom and grow. KG4CXR, KG4FIJ and KG4CXY planted HF and VHF antennas here for Liz KF4UQZ, who's now full quieting.



Hamfest Calendar

June 9:	Winston-Salem, Franklin VA
July 21:	Cary Swapfest
July 28:	Western Carolina Hamfest
August 11:	Fayetteville
Sept 1:	Shelby
Sept 16:	Butner?



Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

